THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TION AND TOURISM <SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incident was investigated by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The cause of the incident has been attributed to improper rigging in cable contol of alternate extension system of right undercarriage.

(c) DGCA has suspended the licen ces of the 3 Aircraft Maintenance Engineers who had conducted the maintenance/anti-sabotage check of the aircraft. To avoid recurrence of such incidents the following one time checks have been conducted on B-747 aircraft in the fleet of Air India.

(i) Fleet-wise inspection of the cable system of alternate landing gear extension system.

i Fleet-wise, tension check of the cables of the landing gear :ision system.

As an additional safety measure, an item has been included in check 'A' (1200 hours) inspection schedule for inspection of the condition of the cable$_s$ and tension checks of alternate landing gear extension system.

Free tickets under "Operation Plague"

298. SMT. KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE; SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

a) whether Air India had offered free international tickets to certain class of people from within the coun-try and outside under "Operation F ";gue";

b) if so. what are the details thereof stating the purpose for issuing fc* e tickets:

ci what, is the estimated expendi-tu're incurred a$_s$ a result thereof; and

(d) what is the achievement made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA1 TION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India had placed 500 tickets at the disposal of Department of Tourism to invite media personnel, opinion makers and major tour operators to visit India to see for themselves that the major tourist destina tions within India are safe from plague.

(c) Issuance of free tickets has not resulted in any revenue loss as load factors of Air India flights were low in the wake of plague outbreak.

The visits of media personnel and tour operators have helped to remove misconceptions and unspecified fear$_s$ relating to the alleged plague outbreak.

Exodus of pilots and commanders from IA

299. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA-DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURTSM be pleased to-state:

at is the number of Indian Airlines pilots and commanders who left the Airlines since the beginning of 1994 and how many pilots and commanders have expressed their desire to leave the Airlines;

(b) what is the overall impact on the working of the Indian Airlines vis-a-vis earnings as a result thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for failure of the efforts made so far by Govern ment to check the exodus of the Indian Airlines pilots and comman ders?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Thirty seven pilots have left Indian Airlines in 1994 upto 30-11-1994. One pilot has tendered his resignation giving 6 months' notice on 27-9-94